

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously presented) A network adapter for one or more access points in a local area network environment, comprising:

means for connecting said one or more access points to a wired network;
means for connecting said one or more access points to a wireless network;
means for enforcing a managed network environment, including at least one of filtering and rewriting data packets transmitted between the wired and wireless networks;
and
means for communicating with a network control server.

2. (Previously presented) A network adapter as recited in claim 1, wherein said means for connecting to a wired network further comprises a wireline network interface.

3. (Previously presented) A network adapter as recited in claim 1, wherein said means for connecting to a wireless network further comprises a wireless network interface.

4. (Previously presented) A network adapter as recited in claim 3 wherein said wireless network interface is coupled to a wireless access point.

5. (Previously presented) A network adapter as recited in claim 4 wherein said wireless access point further comprises an 802.11 type access point.

6. (Previously presented) A network adapter as recited in claim 4 wherein said wireless access point further comprises a Bluetooth-type access point.

7. (Previously presented) A network adapter as claimed in claim 3 wherein said wireless network interface is coupled to a Local Area Network (LAN) port.

8. (Previously presented) A network adapter as recited in claim 1 wherein said means for enforcing a managed network environment further comprises an augmented IP stack.

9. (Previously presented) A network adapter as recited in claim 8 wherein said augmented IP stack includes a Mobile IP Foreign Agent.

10. (Previously presented) A network adapter as recited in claim 8 wherein said augmented IP stack detects and handles packets corresponding to a plurality of network services.

11. (Previously presented) A network adapter as recited in claim 1 wherein said means for communicating further comprises network coordination software.

12. (Previously presented) A network adapter as recited in claim 1 wherein said network adapter includes a plurality of wireline network interfaces.

13. (Previously presented) A network adapter as recited in claim 1 wherein said network adapter includes a plurality of wireless network interfaces.

14. (Previously presented) A network adapter as recited in claim 1 wherein said network adapter is coupled to a switch and said switch is coupled to a plurality of short-range wireless access points.

15. (Previously presented) A network adapter as recited in claim 14 wherein said switch is programmable to automatically forward all inbound packets from wireless access point LAN segments to a segment containing said network adapter.

16. (Previously presented) A network adapter as recited in claim 14 wherein said switch is programmable to automatically forward all packets not originating from a LAN segment containing the network adapter and destined to an access point segment, to the LAN segment containing said network adapter.

17. (Previously presented) A network adapter as recited in claim 14 wherein the access points or wireless clients are programmed to forward all packets to said network adapter.

18. (Previously presented) A network adapter as recited in claim 1 wherein said network control server is co-located with said network adapter.

19. (Currently amended) A network adapter as recited in claim 1 wherein said network control server is co-located with a core server that provides services as users of mobile devices wirelessly coupled to the local area network environment roam-physically move through the environment.

20. (Currently amended) A network adapter as recited in claim 1 wherein said network control server is co-located with a routing coordinator that enables client data connections to be preserved as users of mobile devices wirelessly coupled to the local area network environment ream-physically move through the environment.

21. (Previously presented) A network adapter as recited in claim 1 wherein said network adapter further comprises at least one of a stand-alone personal computer (PC) and a special purpose computing machine.

22. (Previously presented) A network adapter as recited in claim 1 wherein said network adapter further comprises software stored within said one or more access points.

23. (Previously presented) A network adapter as recited in claim 1 wherein said network control server is distributed over said wired network.

24. (Previously presented) A network adapter as recited in claim 1 wherein said network adapter is connectable to one or more access points located on a plurality of LAN segments.

25. (Previously presented) A network adapter as recited in claim 1 wherein said network adapter is connectable to different wireless LANs.

26. (Previously presented) A network adapter as recited in claim 1 wherein said network adapter is co-located with at least one of a Handoff Management Point, a Home Address Masquerader and a Foreign Address Masquerader.

27. (Previously presented) A method for providing a network adapter for a plurality of access points in a local area network environment, comprising the steps of:

connecting said access points to a wired network;
connecting said access points to a wireless network;
enforcing a managed network environment, including at least one of filtering and
rewriting data packets transmitted between the wired and wireless networks; and
communicating with a network control server.

28. (Original) A method as recited in claim 27 wherein the step of enforcing a managed network environment further comprises the steps of:

- receiving packets from a wireline network;
- processing said packets through an augmented IP stack;
- determining whether to rewrite said packets; and
- forwarding said packets to said wireless network.

29. (Original) A method as recited in claim 28, further comprising, prior to the step of forwarding said packets to said wireless network, the step of determining whether to filter said packets.

30. (Original) A method as recited in claim 27 wherein the step of enforcing a managed network environment further comprises the steps of:

- receiving packets from a wireless network;
- processing said packets through an augmented IP stack; and
- forwarding said packets to a wireline network.

31. (Original) A method as recited in claim 30, wherein said step of processing further comprises, prior to the step of forwarding, the steps of:

- determining whether to filter said packets; and
- determining whether to rewrite said packets.

32. (Original) A method as recited in claim 31, further comprising the steps of:
detecting packets corresponding to a plurality of network services via said augmented IP stack; and
handling said packets.

33. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 27, further comprising the step of determining an access point currently associated with a mobile client by inspecting a media access control (MAC) address associated with packets transmitted by the mobile client.

34. (Previously presented) A network adapter, comprising:
a wireline network interface for connecting one or more access points to a wired network;

a wireless network interface for connecting the one or more access points to a wireless network;

an augmented IP stack for enforcing a managed network environment, including at least one of filtering and rewriting data packets transmitted between the wireline and wireless network interfaces; and

network coordination software for communicating with a network control server.

35. (Previously presented) The network adapter of claim 34 wherein packet filtering is carried out in accordance with at least one of security and quality-of-service policies of the managed network environment.

36. (Previously presented) The network adapter of claim 34 wherein packet rewriting is carried out in accordance with packet rewriting policies of the managed network environment.

37. (Previously presented) The network adapter of claim 36 wherein the packet rewriting policies enable at least one of a roaming capability and network address translation (NAT).